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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings, and versions, of claims in this application.

1-43. Cancelled.

44. (Currently amended) An absorbent body for an absorbent article of the type worn by a wearer and having an absorbent body disposed generally centrally of said article and adapted for absorbing liquid body waste released by the wearer, the absorbent body having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and at least one fold line formed therein defining at least two segments of said absorbent body, said at least one fold line extending at least in part laterally of the absorbent body, said segments being generally foldable relative to each other along said at least one fold line to facilitate conformance of the absorbent article to the wearer's body.

45. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 wherein the absorbent body has an inner surface adapted for facing the wearer's body when the absorbent article is worn by the wearer, an outer surface adapted for facing away from the wearer's body, and a thickness, the at least one fold line having a depth which is less than the thickness of the absorbent article.

46. (Currently amended) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 45 wherein the fold line is formed ~~in~~ in at least one of the inner surface and the outer surface of the absorbent body.

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47. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 45 wherein the fold line is formed within the absorbent body intermediate the inner surface and the outer surface thereof.

48. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 wherein the absorbent body has a thickness, the at least one fold line having a depth extending substantially through the entire thickness of the absorbent body.

49. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 wherein the absorbent body is constructed of at least two layers, the at least one fold line being formed in one of said layers.

50. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 49 wherein the at least two layers of the absorbent body include an inner layer and an outer layer, the inner layer being nearer the wearer's body than the outer layer upon wearing of the absorbent article by the wearer, the inner layer having at least one of a length and a width substantially smaller than that of the outer layer.

51. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 50 wherein the inner layer has a surface area comprising less than about 70% of a surface area of the outer layer.

52. (Currently amended) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 50 wherein the inner layer has a surface area comprising less than about 50% of a surface area of the outer layer.

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53. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 50 wherein the inner layer has a surface area comprising less than about 30% of a surface area of the outer layer.

54. (Currently amended) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 wherein the absorbent body has a plurality of fold lines formed therein and defining more than two segments of said absorbent body, the plurality of fold lines including said at least one fold line extending at least in part laterally of the absorbent body, said segments being generally foldable relative to each other along said fold lines to facilitate conformance of the absorbent article to the wearer's body.

55. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 54 wherein the fold lines are arranged such that the shape of at least one of the segments formed by said fold lines is from the group consisting of square, polygonal and circular.

56. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 49 wherein the at least two layers of the absorbent body include an inner layer and an outer layer, the inner layer being nearer the wearer's body than the outer layer upon wearing of the absorbent article by the wearer, said inner layer being scored.

57. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 49 wherein the at least two layers of the absorbent body include an inner layer and an outer layer, the inner layer being nearer the wearer's body than the outer layer upon wearing

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of the absorbent article by the wearer, said inner layer having a shape selected from the group consisting of oval, polygon, hourglass and circle.

58. (Currently amended) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 in combination with the absorbent article, said absorbent article comprising a cover layer adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of said ~~inner~~ cover layer being liquid permeable, and a backing layer in opposed relation with the ~~inner~~ cover layer, the absorbent body being disposed between the cover layer and the backing layer.

59. (Currently amended) A combination as set forth in claim 58 wherein the absorbent article further comprises side wings arranged on longitudinally extending, laterally spaced side edges of said absorbent article.

60. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 59 wherein the absorbent article further comprises a wing adhesion system secured to an outer surface of each of said side wings.

61. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 59 wherein the absorbent article further comprises an adhesive system secured to an outer surface of the backing layer of said article.

62. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 59 wherein the absorbent body is constructed of at least two layers including a transfer layer adjacent the cover layer

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of the absorbent article and a distributing layer adjacent the backing layer of said article.

63. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 59 wherein the absorbent article is selected from the group comprising a sanitary napkin and an incontinence diaper.

64. (Currently amended) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 wherein said absorbent body comprises ~~Coform~~ coform.

65. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 44 wherein said absorbent body comprises superabsorbent material.

66. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 59 wherein the cover layer comprises a central portion and an edge portion extending substantially along a peripheral edge margin of said central layer.

67. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 66 wherein the central portion and the edge portion of the cover layer are bonded together.

68. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 67 wherein the central portion and the edge portion of the cover layer are bonded together by using a hot-melt adhesive.

69. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 67 wherein the central portion and the edge portion of the cover layer are bonded together by welding.

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70. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 49 wherein one of said at least two layers include a flow layer and a reservoir layer.

71. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 49 wherein at least one layer of said absorbent body is adapted to be differentiated visually from the remaining layers thereof.

72. (Previously presented) An absorbent body as set forth in claim 71 wherein said at least one layer is a different color than the remaining layers of said absorbent body.

73. (Previously presented) A combination as set forth in claim 59 wherein the absorbent body is constructed of at least two layers, the porosity of each of said cover layer and said layers of the absorbent body generally decreasing from the cover layer to the outermost layer of the absorbent body adjacent the backing layer of said article.

74. (Previously presented) A method of producing an absorbent body for an absorbent article of the type worn by a wearer and having an absorbent body disposed generally centrally of said article and adapted for absorbing liquid body waste released by the wearer, the method comprising the steps of:

passing a first cut-out from a first web material through a nip;

passing a second web material through the nip whereby the cut-out from the first web material overlays the second web material as the cut-out and the second web material pass through the nip; and

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performing one of the following as the cut-out from the first web material and the second material together pass through the nip: forming a fold line in the second web material at the peripheral edge of the cut-out of the first web material and forming a second cut-out from the second web material having substantially the same shape as the first cut-out from the first web material.

75. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein the nip is defined by a pair of conveyor elements, the step of passing the second web material through the nip comprising conveying the second web material over one of said conveyor elements to pass therebetween, at least one of said conveyor elements having one of a fold-line forming device and a cutting device mounted thereon for contacting the second web element at the peripheral edge of the cut-out from the first web-material generally within the nip.

76. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 75 wherein the pair of conveyor elements are second and third conveyor elements defining the nip therebetween, the second conveyor element having said one of a fold-line forming device and a cutting device mounted thereon, the method further comprising the steps of conveying a first web material over a first conveyor element to a nip defined by the first conveyor element and the second conveyor element, and contacting the first web of material with said one of a fold-line forming device and a cutting device mounted on the second conveyor element with sufficient pressure to form the first cut-out from the first web material as the first web material passes through the nip formed by the first and second conveyor elements, the

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step of passing the first cut-out from the first web of material through the nip comprising supporting the first cut-out on the second conveyor element upon rotation of the second conveyor element to convey the first-cut out to the nip formed by the second and third conveyor elements.

77. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 76 wherein the first and second conveyor elements are rotating elements from the group consisting of rollers and wheels, the first web of material being conveyed through the nip defined by the first and second conveyor elements at a speed equal to the rotational speed of the second conveyor element.

78. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 76 wherein the first and second conveyor elements are rotating elements from the group consisting of rollers and wheels, the first web of material being conveyed through the nip defined by the first and second conveyor elements intermittently while the second rotating conveyor element rotates continuously.

79. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 74 further comprising the step of applying adhesive to at least one of the first cut-out from the first web material and the second web material prior to passing the first cut-out and the second web material through the nip such that the first cut-out is secured to the second web material upon passing through said nip.

80. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 76 wherein the step of supporting the first-cut on the second conveyor element as the first cut-out is conveyed to the nip

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formed by the second and third conveyor elements comprises applying a vacuum pressure to the first cut-out to hold the first cut-out on the second conveyor element during rotation of the second conveyor element.

81. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 80 wherein the first cut-out is released from the second conveyor element onto the second web material by subjecting the first cut-out to a positive pressure.

82. (New) An absorbent body for an absorbent article of the type worn by a wearer and having an absorbent body disposed generally centrally of said article and adapted for absorbing liquid body waste released by the wearer, the absorbent body having a plurality of fold lines formed therein and defining more than two segments of said absorbent body, said segments being generally foldable relative to each other along said fold lines to facilitate conformance of the absorbent article to the wearer's body, at least one fold line of said plurality of fold lines extending at least in part laterally of said absorbent body, and at least one other of said plurality of fold lines extending at least in part longitudinally of said absorbent body.